

Official Form 3A

Instructions for the Application for Individuals to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments

United States Bankruptcy Court

12/01/13

How to Fill Out the Application

If you cannot afford to pay the full filing fee when you first file for bankruptcy, you may pay the fee in installments. However, in most cases, you must pay the entire fee within 120 days of when you file, and the court must approve your payment timetable. If necessary after the court establishes the initial schedule, you may ask the court to extend the deadline to 180 days after you file. In that case, you must explain why you need the extension. Your debts will not be discharged until you pay your entire fee.

Do not file this form if you can afford to pay your full fee when you file.

If you are filing under chapter 7 and cannot afford to pay the full filing fee at all, you may be qualified to ask the court to waive your filing fee. See *Application to Have Your Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 3B).

If a bankruptcy petition preparer helped you complete this form, make sure that person fills out the *Declaration and Signature of Non-Attorney Bankruptcy Petition Preparer* (Official Form 19); include a copy of it in this package.

Things to remember when filling out this form

- Be as complete and accurate as possible.
- If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).
- If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information.

Do not file these instructions with your bankruptcy filing package. Keep them for your records.